The
Niagara Advance
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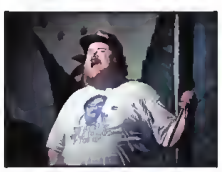
Thursday, January 12, 2017

UNESCO consideration

Town council discuss application for recognition 2



A laughing matter

Comedians to take over Ice Wine Festival 4

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Swooping in to celebrate

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Matthew Morgan is a wildlife educator for the Canadian Raptor Conservatory. He shows off a Great Horned Owl named Will during the Icetravaganza's 150 celebration at Fort George Jan. 7. More on page 10.

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Town to consider applying for UNESCO designation

JIM BYERS/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Among other things, pretty Niagara-on-the-Lake is famous for its elaborate floral displays such as this one at the Shaw Cafe and Wine Bar.

SUZANNE MASON
Special to postmedia network

Niagara-on-the-Lake is considering throwing its hat in the ring for a chance to be designated as a world heritage site through UNESCO, but some town councillors are reluctant to do so without having any idea what the potential costs could be for taxpayers.

A local UNESCO committee has been doing research for an application to Parks Canada to be placed on a tentative list – the first step toward being considered for a World Heritage Designation. The town had provided the committee with a budget of $30,000 last year to do the research and complete the application.

On Monday, UNESCO committee member Richard Merritt requested support from the committee-of-the-whole for submission of the application to Parks Canada. The deadline for applications is Jan. 27 and a decision will be made in December on the nomination of Canadian sites for consideration by UNESCO.

Merritt said a UNESCO designation would benefit the town by encouraging visitation by "more worldly tourists" – those who are affluent, better educated and go to other cultural sites in the town. He said they would likely stay longer and spend more money than other tourists.

Another advantage he noted was that a World Heritage Designation would likely also result in increased real estate values in the town.

"It's time for Niagara-on-the-Lake to climb onto the world stage as a historic cultural landscape of world heritage status," said Merritt.

The areas included in the draft application for designation are mainly lands owned by government bodies from Queenston Heights along the Niagara River to the Old Town, but there are also some privately-owned properties on the committee's map.

Coun. Jim Collard said he supports the application in principle, but he wanted to know about future costs and what the role and power of a management board that would be set up by UNESCO would entail.

Merritt suggested that financial support could be sought from various agencies and the committee could also do fundraising.

Collard also questioned whether the town needed an increase in the number of tourists. It is estimated that there are currently 2.5 to 3 million visitors per year.

Coun. Maria Bau-Coote took exception to Merritt's reference to the term "worldly tourists".

"Ice-cream tourists are originally what Niagara-on-the-Lake was based on," she said.

Coun. Betty Disero, a member of the UNESCO committee, said a designation would bring in new tourists who travel to world cultural and heritage sites.

Staff was asked to look into potential costs for the designation process if the town's application is successful in making Parks Canada's tentative list.

Council will make a decision Monday on whether to apply to be on the tentative list.

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Anne Street rejected

Design committee approval requested

SUZANNE MASON
Special to Postmedia Network

Plans by Solmar Development Corp. for multi-unit housing on Anne Street in the Old Town have again been rejected by Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors.

Staff recommended approval of a 61-unit townhouse development at 128-174 Anne St. at the community and development advisory committee Monday, but the application was turned down on a tie vote.

In 2013, the company applied to build a five-storey 226-unit apartment building on the site, but council approved a 105-unit building instead. The following year, Solmar received approval from the Ontario Municipal Board to build a four-storey building with 125 units.

Last October, due to market conditions, the company decided to reduce the density and the type of housing and applied for a townhouse development. There were some concerns at a public meeting to the proposal including suitability of townhouses for the area, visitor parking, increased traffic and landscaping.

"There is no question this is better than a four-storey building," said Coun. Maria Bau-Coote, but "We want them to build something unique."

She said the building design is very important, so they don't end up looking like something from the 2004 movie The Stepford Wives.

Bau-Coote suggested that council not give the go-ahead to the project until the town's urban design committee has approved the building plans.

Acting chief administrative officer Holly Dowd pointed out that the committee was only dealing with zoning and official plan amendments and a draft plan of the subdivision, not the site plan for the development.

The committee's recommendation to reject the application goes to council next week for final approval.

Parking increases expected

SUZANNE MASON
Special to Postmedia Network

Parking fees are expected to go up in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake which would provide an additional $457,000 per year for the town coffers.

Monday, the operations advisory committee unanimously approved a 50-cent hike to the hourly rates for meters, an extension of pay parking for an extra two hours to 8 p.m. and an eventual expansion of metered parking to areas that are currently free.

The last change to parking rates was in 2011. Meter prices are $2 per hour on Queen Street and other metered spaces in the heritage area are $1.50 per hour.

Marci Weston, engineering technologist-traffic, reported to the committee that a survey of other tourist destinations showed that Niagara-on-the-Lake has significantly lower hourly rates than other similar areas with limited parking and high demand.

Weston estimated that a 50-cent increase for the meters on the three high-demand blocks of Queen Street would generate an additional $306,000 in revenue.

Pay parking in the heritage area is currently in effect from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. seven days a week, except in December when it is free.

"While these meter hours are appropriate for a typical 'downtown business district,' they do not reflect the realities of a vibrant tourist destination where the streets are busy late into the evening," Weston reported.

She said that charging for an additional two hours per day would net about $151,000 more annually, including the cost of extended parking enforcement.

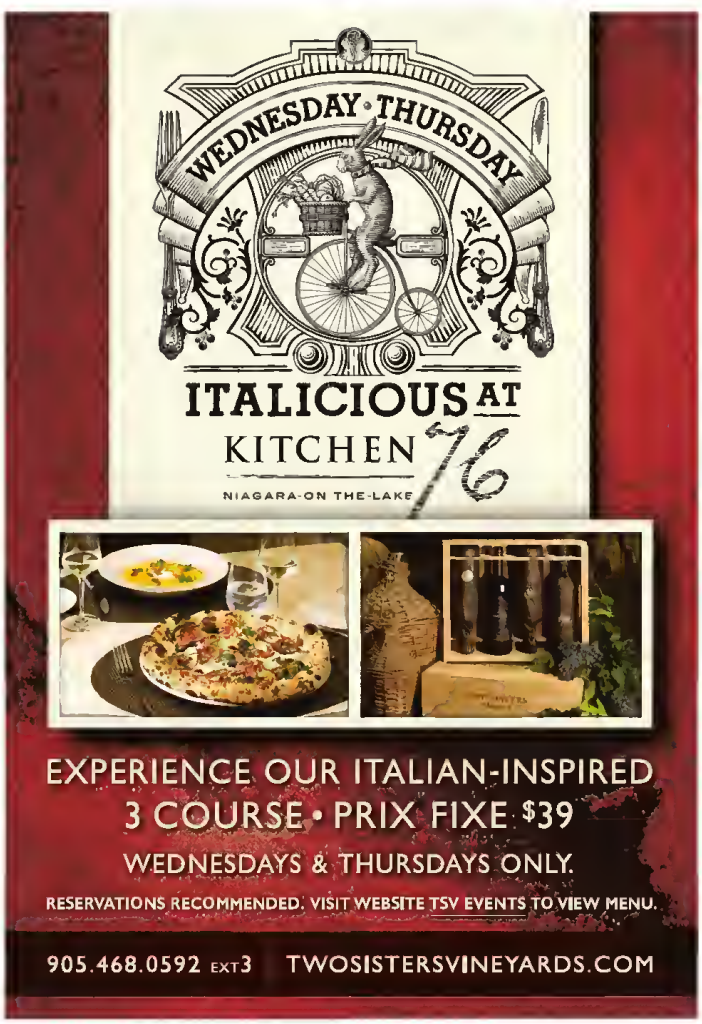
Weston also recommended that the town install pay parking on Wellington St. opposite the former hospital this year and on Byron St. between King Street and Parks Canada lands in 2018. After the capital costs for meters or pay stations have been paid, she estimated the two new parking areas would bring in $146,600 per year.

The changes would help discourage the use of prime parking spaces by employees and would not impact residents added Weston. The annual resident parking permit for $12 per year exempts holders from parking meter fees for up to one hour per trip.

"Residents would also benefit from the increased availability of parking spaces near core shops and services," she said.

Coun. Paolo Miele said he agreed with Weston that the increases are not out of line as the town has one of the lowest parking rates for a tourist destination area.

Council will make a final decision on the proposed changes next Monday.



Comedy to break the ice at Icewine Festival

KRIS DUBE
SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Some of the comedy world's biggest rising stars will be bringing their jokes to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Part of the Icewine Festival, the Icebreaker Comedy Festival will return for its fourth year, boasting talent such as K. Trevor Wilson, known for his role on the hit Canadian TV series 'Letterkenny.'

He's also competed on 'Jeff Ross' 'Roast Battle' and just last week – appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live.

Founder Jeff Paul, who is a close friend of Wilson, says he is OK with riding his friend's coattails a little.

"I figured I'd get him for this year because we won't be able to afford him next year," he laughed.

Running from January 26 to 28, the three-day festival includes 18 comedians, three venues, and four shows.

It has also partnered with CBC Radio's 'Laugh Out Loud' radio program.

Once a week, host Ali Hassan promotes established and emerging Canadian stand-up comedy from around the country at different festivals and clubs. The comics taping for this year's Icebreakers Festival come with an impressive list of professional credits that include: Just For Laughs, Canadian Comedy Awards, Halifax Comedy Festival, MuchMusic, Winnipeg Comedy Festival, Comedy Now, CBC Radio's The Debaters, and more, says a press release about the event.

DAVID CYR/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

K. Trevor Wilson will perform at the Icebreaker Comedy Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of the Icewine Festival.

K. Trevor Wilson gets the festival off to a start headlining the Kick Off Show on Thurs. Jan. 26 at local brewery Oast Brew House.

Joining him will be homegrown favourite Joe Pillitteri, along with Paul.

On Jan. 27, Corks Wine Bar and Eatery will host the first of the shows to be aired on the radio.

This all-star line-up of professional comics includes Mayce Galoni, Alex Wood, Andrew Barr, Hunter Collins, Michelle Shaughnessy, Keith Pedro, and Christophe Davidson.

This year, an additional late show has been added to the line-up. Hosted by Jeff Paul, The Meltdown, takes place at Corks on Friday night at 10:30 p.m.

"Come see why these comics jokes have been pegged 'not for radio,'" said Paul, describing the more "unfiltered portion" of the festival.

Continued Page 5

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DAVID CYR/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Jeff Paul will perform at the Icebreaker Comedy Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of the Icewine Festival.

Laugh out loud with a crowd

Continued From Page 4

On the night of Sat. Jan. 28, the CBC Laugh Out Loud Gala takes place at the Royal Cambridge at the Prince of Wales.

The headliners who will be gracing the stage include Steve Dylan, Kate Davis, Jean Paul, Laurie Elliott, Ryan Belleville, and Dave Hemstad.

It will also be hosted by Laugh Out Loud's very own Ali Hassan.

For more information, including how to buy tickets, you can visit www.icebreakerscomedy.com.

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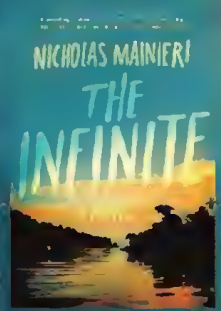

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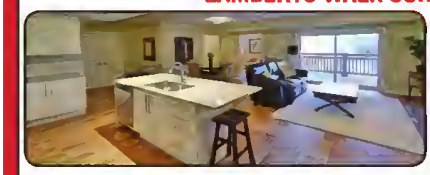

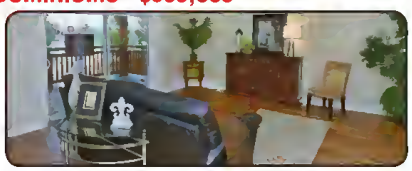

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The Niagara Advance

Angus Scott regional editor
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Point of View

Superintelligence coming to your health care soon

It sounds like something in the future, but it's already here - Artificial Intelligence (AI), or Superintelligence, and the impact of it on the management of cancer.

For much of my career the management of cancer was based on the big three – chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. Sometimes surgery, done early enough before the cancer had spread beyond its parent organ, was enough to cure the cancer. Sometimes however surgery provided little more than reducing the physical size of the tumor (de-bulking in the trade), leaving to radiation and chemotherapy any hope for cleaning up the rest. And it all worked – sometimes - but often with awful side effects and much too often only as a temporizing measure.

Sometimes the cure was literally worse than the disease, but oncologists pressed on too often in the vain attempt to corral the cancer, sometimes heedless of the patient's circumstances and needs.

That was then. These days, tools for treating cancer have become much more precise. By sequencing the genomes of patient-specific cancers, oncologists are much better equipped to choose the most effective chemotherapeutic drug or combinations of drugs. Beyond that, its now possible to barness the body's own immune system to target specific proteins on the surface of the cancer cells while leaving the body's own cells unharmed. It's the biological equivalent of 'a smart bomb' in the military but like the bomb, collateral damage sometimes occurs, however clever the biological tool used to treat the cancer.

Other forms of immunotherapy take advantage of a gimmick some cancers evolve for blinding the lymphocytes, which otherwise would attack the cancer cells. By unmasking these lymphocytes, using what in the trade are called check point inhibitors, it's possible to rev up the immunological attack on certain cancers, among which is melanoma – one of the worst. President Jimmy Carter's melanoma and metastases literally melted away using a combination of check point inhibitors.

Beating cancer these days involves competing strategies between molecularly clever cancer cells fully capable of nimbly evolving to overcome every natural and acquired barrier to its growth by employing natural selection and opposing oncologist's every attempt to come up with ingenious new drugs and combinations of drugs to stay one step ahead of the cancer cells.

It's a daunting task and not one any single physician or group of physicians even in the best centers is capable of keeping up with. That's where artificial intelligence comes in. The same computer algorithms, which beat all comers on Jeopardy, may be harnessed to help physicians stay ahead of the game in cancer. The algorithms in these very smart computers are capable of autonomous learning without writing new software to cover every turn in the road. The result is that some of the largest and best of the cancer treatment facilities in North America, such as the Sloan Kettering Institute in the U.S., now employ AI to help make treatment decisions. AI gobbles up the world's literature in a flash and because it never forgets and learns from its mistakes from the best of human experts, it has become an indispensable partner in the diagnosis of cancer and its treatment. And the beauty is that the knowledge can be gathered and shared round the world. That's a huge plus. It's no longer every oncologist or cancer center on its own, but each linked with the best in the world.

Just imagine the impact of AI on diagnosis. Up to now most diagnostic algorithms were clunky and incapable of learning. Upend that to fast learning machines which learn from every patient encounter and medical expert and weave the expertise together. Its what we've needed for a long time.

Most of what we depend on now in medicine is based on what your physician learned, how well she learned it and whether when she needs it, she can remember what she learned. Even then it's fair to say that most physicians are at least several years out of date for most problems. Textbooks are out of date the day they're published and most pbysicians simply can't begin to keep up with the literature. With AI as a partner working in the background offering hints and suggestions along the way, health care could and should become a lot better.

The thing is though, with the coming of AI, I don't think I would choose any imaging specialty – formally a lucrative specialty. Why? Because AI can scan millions of CT and MRI scans and the results can be checked and double-cbecked by many of the best radiologists. The result? Because AI learns quickly from its masters and has the equivalent of several lifetimes of experience from the best radiologists, AI turns out to do a better job of reading CT and MRI scans compared to all but the very best radiologists and even they miss things that AI picks up. That's the now and future.

In my enthusiasm for AI I would be remiss if I didn't point out that some of these new 'miracle' drugs for cancer might have devastating side effects. Sometimes by unharnessing the immune system to attack the cancer, the immune system attacks the patient's own heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and skin. Some of these attacks have been fatal while others have been turned back with corticosteroids and other drugs. So it's not all a walk in the park. But spotting those adverse side effects and treating them became much easier with AI because instead of one or two cases in a center, the world's literature is open with which to compare notes and treatment options with AI at our side.

The potential benefits of AI in health care are not isolated to cancer or radiology but will impact every emergency room, intensive care unit, outpatient clinic and wedded to home video assisted monitoring, should revolutionize home care.

Not a moment too soon for most of us.

-Dr. Bill Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University.

Letter to the Editor

THANKS, SANTA

Santa Claus
North Pole
HOH OHO
Dear Santa,

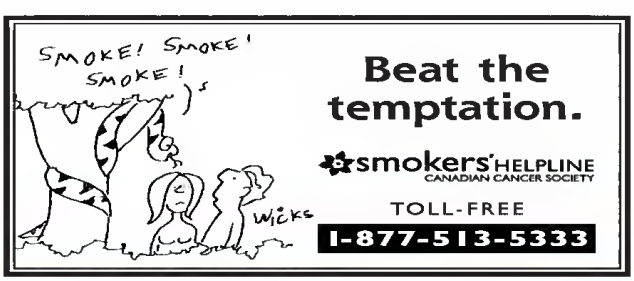
Everyone involved in Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care wants to thank you for your generous donation from all the Christmas gigs you did this year. $1,640 is incredible – almost double what you gave last year. As well, please thank all the reindeer for their safe and timely deliveries.

All the money raised for this important "C(l)aus" will be put back into our programs. Not only did you make all the people you visited happy but your donations from those people will make all the seriously-ill in NOTL happier too.

We hope you have a very relaxing time with Mrs. Claus until you have to gear up for Christmas again next year.

Very sincerely,

PATRICIA WHITWELL
CHAIRMAN



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What to do with overwintering plants

Whatever happened to window sills? Those of you lucky enough to have an older home or apartment will still have them and are no doubt putting them to good use.

The trend for modern architecture is to trim down everything to its bare essentials for a clean, uncluttered look — actually trying to save us from ourselves. But where, I ask you, can you put your overwintering plants? Or your doodads?

I have a bookshelf under a south facing window which is great, but not very aesthetic as all the plants have to be crammed into this one spot. Time for more shelving, though I can bear the decorator's screeching with just the thought. Book shelves and lamps are not high on the decorators' lists these days.

At this time of year you can't garden outside and it's too soon for the plant catalogues. Those are best left till February when we really start to get a little antsy and want to dream. But you could have fun with what you can do indoors (if only you had windowsills).

I clipped off a piece of kale in the fall and stuck it in some water with some flowers. Lo and behold, it began to grow roots and new leaves. So I am going to pot it up and see what happens. Probably nothing, but I will have amused myself.

It is also possible to grow herbs in water, but only perennial herbs as annuals are designed to grow only one season. Apparently the easiest to start are sage, thyme, mint, basil, oregano, stevia and lemon balm. Find a jar with a narrow mouth and fill it with water — tap, not distilled — and let the water evaporate overnight to allow the chlorine to evaporate.

You can't go into the garden right now and pick a stem, but if you find some relatively fresh herbs in the supermarket, those will work. The best place in the area for fresh herbs I have found is Lococo's in Niagara Falls. Pick a stem about six inches long and remove the leaves from about four inches from the bottom of the stems. Cut a bit off the bottom of each stem at an angle to allow the stem to absorb moisture. Place the stem or stems in the water with no leaves touching the water, as the rotting leaves will contaminate the container. If the opening of the vase or jar is too wide, use nylon or wire mesh on top and insert the cuttings through the holes to keep the stems upright. If you use a vase which is opaque or dark, even better, as the roots don't need the light and you will have less algae forming, thus less water changing.

You can also wrap the bottom of the jar with paper to keep the light off the roots. Put the vase and stems in a place with at least six hours of sunlight a day. As the stem produces roots you will start to see growth in the leaves. Woody cuttings, like rosemary, will take longer so be patient.

When a new leaf reaches full size, clip it off to encourage the plant to produce more leaves and branching. The stems should grow for months and I see no reason why you couldn't plant them in pots in the spring and then later into your garden. Change the water weekly without disturbing the cuttings.

Now to solve the problem of having no place like a windowsill to put this new herb garden. You could hang them all in front of a window. Where are my old macramé holders when I need them? If you are creative, you can probably set up something that looks quite good. If not, there are garden centres which may provide a solution. This will be my homework for the week. I'll let you know if I find a solution.

If you are venturing outdoors you will notice the blasted cold and how little protection from the snow your plants have received from snow cover – not enough. Lucky you, if you didn't manage to get your tree out before the dastardly 7 a.m. rule. At least you can cut the branches and place them over your roses and other delicate perennials which do not do well in this kind of weather.

If your tree is gone, ask your neighbours who still have theirs for some of their branches, or get yourself some more mulch and load up the base of your plants. Keep the branches and the mulch on till after risk of frost has passed. If you didn't manage to dispose of your tree and you don't need the branches, ask around, you may find some takers.

We did get our tree out by the allotted hour, but not before I noticed that with lots of watering some of the upper branches had started to develop little buds. They were white as there was not enough sufficient sunlight to form chlorophyll in our living room, but they were still soldiering on.

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Shaw Festival co-founder Calvin Rand dies at 87

DON FRASER
postmedia network

Calvin Rand, the co-founder and founding chairman of Shaw Festival, has died.

Rand died at age 87 at his home on Dec. 31.

This year's production of Shaw's play *Saint Joan* will be dedicated to Rand's memory.

Rand, of Buffalo, N.Y., joined with Brian Doherty in 1962 to create a summer festival showcasing the works of playwright George Bernard Shaw.

The inaugural season featured four performances each of *Don Juan in Hell* and *Candida*, which were staged in the Assembly Room of the historic courthouse in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We are very thankful to him for all that he did," said executive director Tim Jennings. "You don't see people like that very often who dedicate literally their whole adult lives to a specific charitable cause.

"He really was one of our angels and we couldn't have done it without him."

The festival experienced significant growth in its first decade, touring extensively in the U.S. and Canada.

In 1973, the Queen was on hand to open the Festival Theatre, which allowed the Shaw Festival to mount large-scale productions.

Jennings described Rand as man in his 30s at the time of Shaw's founding "who decided to jump on board with Mr. Doherty, who had already established a couple of theatres in Canada, and (Rand) brought to it a sense of business acumen."

"He was there, working hard from Day 1," said Jennings, adding Rand was Shaw's "only perpetual board member," and he's been involved with the company constantly since inception.

Even in advancing years, Rand remained very interested about what was happening at Shaw, he said.

Tim Carroll, Shaw Festival's new artistic director, said Rand was "what all artists pray for — a truly dedicated friend, supporter and adviser: one who was in it for the long haul."

"We really can't thank him enough. Our thoughts are very much with his family and friends at this time," he said in a Shaw release.

In that release, current board chair Andy Pringle noted Rand "never stopped caring for the Shaw and his legacy evolved and grew under his watchful eye. He will be greatly missed."

— with files from The Canadian Press

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Condolences pour in for St. Catharines teen struck by vehicle

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia network

St. Catharines teen Austin Cummings loved video gaming online, playing as often as he could against friends around the world.

Just how many friends, and how widespread they were, is something his mother Shawna Cummings is learning this week.

In the past 24 hours, condolences from other parents of gamers have been arriving in her Facebook inbox from places that include Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Windsor and London.

They are people she's never met, reaching out after hearing her 17-year-old son was struck and killed by a van in Niagara Falls last Tuesday.

"It's been pretty special," said Cummings through tears over the pbone last Thursday.

"It's just nice to know that there are strangers out there who tell me that my son made a decent impact on other children from such a far distance."

Austin had plenty of friends outside the gaming community as well and his mom said she's been hearing from a lot of people who loved and cared for him.

The teen was walking on Lundy's Lane just west of Beaverdams Road at about 6:40 a.m. last Tuesday when he was struck.

Niagara Regional Police said he suffered life-threatening injuries and was taken to hospital where he died.

Police said their initial investigation revealed Austin was walking west in the eastbound lane and was hit by an eastbound 2007 GMC van driven by a 53-year-old Niagara Falls man.

The driver was not injured and no charges have been laid.

Cummings said her son had been in Niagara Falls with friends. Police are continuing to investigate what happened.

Austin was born and raised in St. Catharines and has a 10-year-old brother Joel.

He was registered at Thorold Secondary School, where he took classes in grade 10 and 11, but wasn't attending in recent weeks.

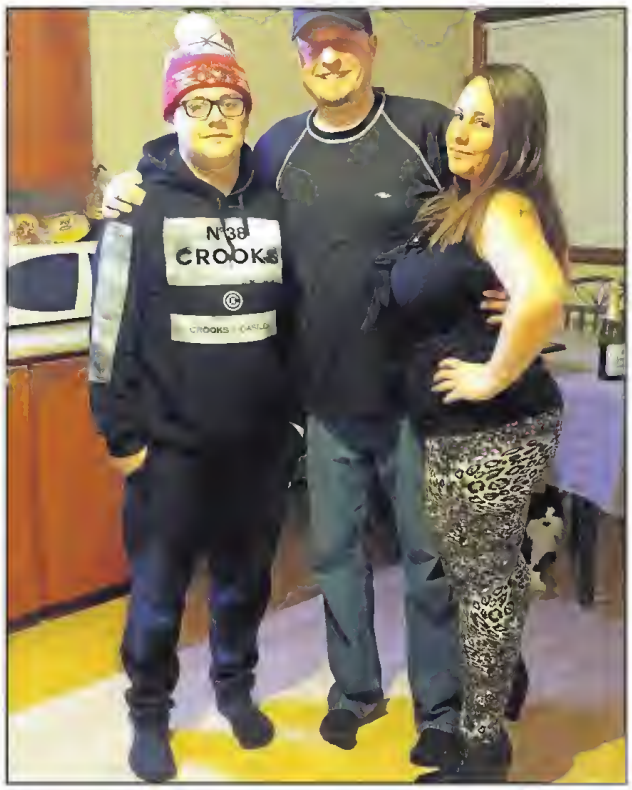
"I love him and miss him terribly," said Cummings. "I want him to know that I loved him."

An online GoFundMe account

"In Remembrance of Austin Cummings" has been set up by a family friend to assist with funeral expenses. Money has been particularly tight because Cummings, a single mom, is off work on medical leave awaiting surgery for her left arm due to carpal tunnel syndrome. It's been a struggle that's now a nightmare.

"I wasn't planning on having to bury my son."

kwalter@postmedia.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Austin Cummings, 17, of St. Catharines was killed on Jan. 3, 2016 while walking on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls. Facebook photo from New Year's Eve provided by family. St.

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Notable celebration

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Glisse on Ice Skating Show, performers put on a amazing skating performance during the Icetravaganza 150 celebration at Fort George Saturday.

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Musical Show by the Kindred, familys and friends had an amazing time at the Icetravaganza 150 celebration at Fort George Saturday.

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More charges for Marineland

MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Six counts of animal cruelty involving elk, Red deer and Fallow deer were filed against Marineland Monday by the OSPCA.

JOHN LAW
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) has charged Marineland with six new counts of animal cruelty.

The charges involve the park's elk and deer, and follow five animal cruelty charges laid against the park in November.

In November, the OSPCA "responded to concerns" and had a veterinarian inspect the park on Nov. 10. Charges were laid 15 days later, which included one count of failing to comply with prescribed standards of care for a peacock, and failing to comply with prescribed standards of care for approximately 35 black bears.

Monday's charges under the Ontario SPCA Act are as follows:

- One count of permitting elk to be in distress
- One count of failing to provide prescribed standards of care for elk
- One count of permitting Red deer to be in distress
- One count of failing to provide prescribed standards of care for Red deer
- One count of permitting Fallow deer to be in distress
- One count of failing to provide prescribed standards of care for Fallow deer

None of the animals were removed from the park. The OSPCA says it can only remove animals when they are in immediate distress, if a vet recommends removal so the animal gets the care required, or if OSPCA orders have been issued but were not complied with.

"We try to educate wherever possible, but we will enforce the law when it's necessary," said OSPCA senior inspector Steve Toy in a media release. "We want to reassure the public that the society will continue to make sure these animals are getting the care they require."

After the November charges, the OSPCA said it was still an "open and ongoing investigation," and more charges against the park were pending.

None of the 11 charges against Marineland have been proven in court. The combined 11 charges will go before a Justice of the Peace in Provincial Offences Court Jan. 26 in Niagara Falls.

OSPCA deputy chief Jennifer Bluhm says while the investigation is ongoing, "the 11 counts is the appropriate number of charges that should be made in this."

It is not the first time Marineland and the OSPCA have crossed paths.

In December 2012, the group followed up on animal abuse allegations made by former employees and animal activists with six orders to the park. By April 2013, all orders were complied with, including birth control for its bears and a larger shelter for the elk.

Last year, the OSPCA investigated concerns over treatment of Marineland's beluga whales following hidden camera footage obtained in the summer of 2015 by a member of the L.A,-based group Last Chance for Animals, hired as a summer employee. Marineland was cleared of the complaint, calling the group's video a "hate-filled rant."

Bluhm said this is the first time the OSPCA found enough evidence to charge the park.

"Every investigation is unique, so to compare this investigation to past investigations wouldn't really be appropriate," she said. "In this case, the facts in the matter — the evidence that came forward — supported these 11 counts being laid."

Former Marineland employee Phil Demers, who came forward against the park in the summer of 2012 with allegations of animal abuse and neglect, says Marineland has "run out of rope" with the OSPCA.

"(The OSPCA) has given Marineland every chance to clean up their act...now, they get to face a judge."

CONTINUED > PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 11

The park is suing Demers for $1.5 million — one of nine lawsuits Marineland has filed since 2012 against former employees, activists and the media.

Following the charges in November, Marineland said the complaint against the park came from a former employee who was fired for "poor performance and inappropriate behaviour."

As they did in November, Marineland disputed the new OSPCA charges Monday, calling them the "strangest charges yet."

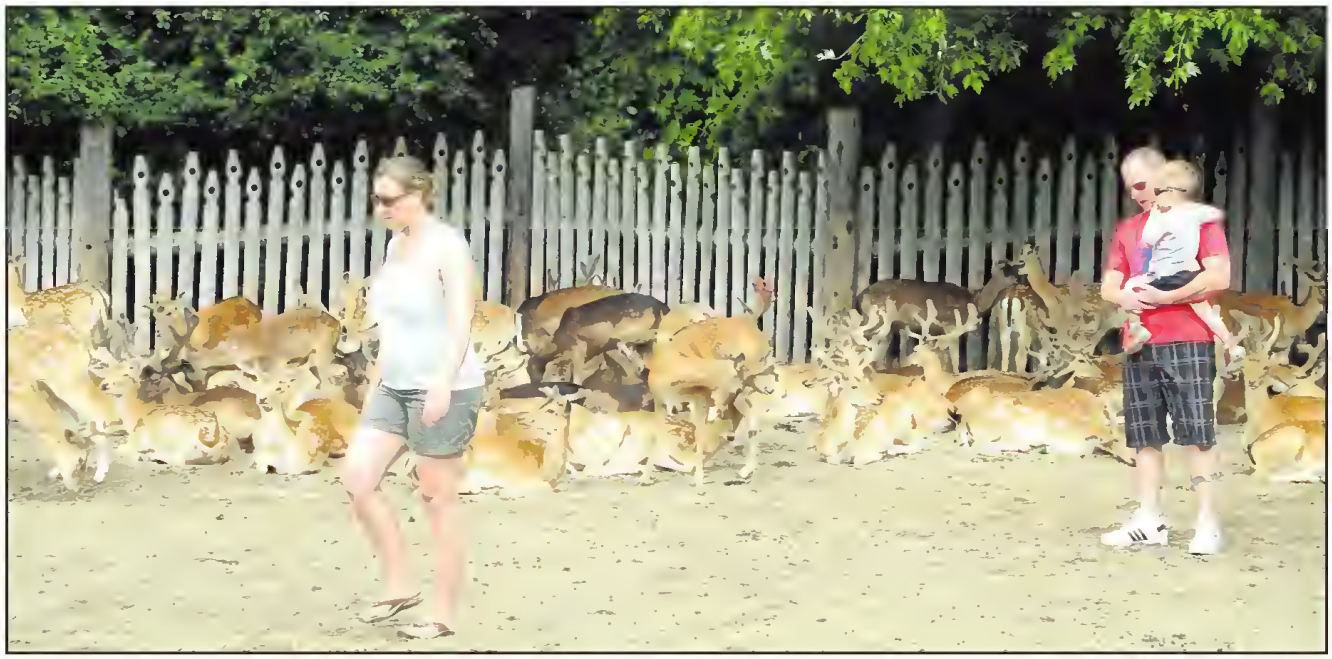
"The OSPCA charges fail to identify a specific animal they believe to be in distress or not receiving an appropriate level of care 61 days ago at our park, and failed to identify a specific animal in their charges today," the park responded in a statement sent to The Review.

The park said it requested to take part by phone or web link with an OSPCA press conference held Monday to announce the charges, but was told "this was not possible."

"We believe the OSPCA is continuing a publicity campaign at the behest of a band of discredited activists with little relevant expertise or knowledge," the park said, adding "Marineland looks forward to the OSPCA laying out their case in court, where facts matter and there is an objective measure of reality that has not been seen in the basis of their charges or the supporting documentation.

"We will hold the OSPCA to the high standards of Ontario's legal system and require them to defend their charges to the fullest extent possible."

jlaw@postmedia.com



JOHN LAW / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Visitors stroll the deer pen at Marineland in this 2014 file photo. Six counts of animal cruelty involving Elk, Red Deer and Fallow Deer were filed against the park Monday by the OSPCA.

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15716 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY $1,595,000

A country estate property with scenic views of vineyards and the Niagara River and set on a treed yard with private pool area, tennis courts and pool house. Main floor offers good sized principal rooms including updated kitchen, family room with fireplace, formal living room, formal dining room with fireplace, study, enclosed sunroom and convenient main floor master ensuite. Upper level consists of 4 additional bedrooms and 4 piece bathroom. Detached double garage. **MLS# 30552937. Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

8 DIXIE AVENUE $789,000

Updated mid-century home located in popular Chautauqua area close to lake and parks. This bungalow offers convenient main floor living with an open concept floor plan. Sliding doors in both the kitchen and the master bedroom open to a large back deck overlooking hot tub and in-ground pool. Situated on a double wide lot in established area with surrounding mature trees. Exclusive. **Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

96 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE $749,000

This beautiful Georgian style end unit town home overlooks Niagara's vineyards and is located in the master planned community known as The Village. The 7 year old brick home with many upgrades is characterized by 23 windows, 10' ceilings on the main floor and offers an open concept great room and kitchen with breakfast bar. Large light tilled dining room is perfect for entertaining. Situated in an exceptional neighborhood offering a host of amenities within walking distance. Exclusive. **Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

524 CONCESSION 1 ROAD $845,000

17 plus acre fruit farm. The land is well located close to the Niagara River with deep sandy loam soil. Excellent for growing tender fruit and grapes. Farm is currently planted to peaches (16 acres appx.) and one acre of plums. 4000 sq. ft. 3-year-old barn with concrete pad. **MLS# N30054008. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

183 VICTORIA STREET $2000 +

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689 KING STREET $1,250. +

Furnished one bedroom rental. 111yr old cottage, beautifully renovated inside & out & an easy walk to the centre of Niagara on the lake's heritage district. Heated ceramic flooring throughout, gas fireplace, bathroom with jacuzza tub, gorgeous treed lot, new pergola & patio. Fully fenced rear yard. Detached garage with automatic garage door opener. The property is fully fenced & landscaped. Truly a little gem!! Fridge, range top, microwave, washer, dryer, garage door opener note: rent + utilities. **Audrey Wright and Chris Bowron.**

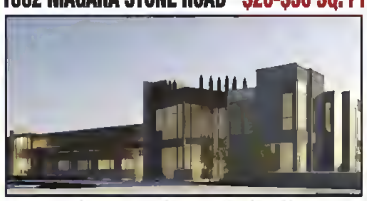
275 FOUR MILE CREEK $689,000

Updated, mid-century home backing on to spectacular ravine lot. The chef-inspired country kitchen is the hub of this recently updated home. The open concept dining and living areas flow easily from the kitchen, making it equally suited for family living or entertaining. **MLS 30549734. Marilyn Francis.**

6 SETTLERS COURT $819,000

Located in Old Town Niagara on the Lake, this one and half storey brick home offers main floor living with 2 bedrooms and bathrooms, upstairs for visiting guests. Very private back yard with apple trees and a wonderful large covered patio, great for entertaining. The main floor has the master bedroom with updated bathroom, front sitting room (or large office), family room with wood burning fireplace, formal dining room and a large eat in kitchen with easy access to the back patio. **MLS#30544215 Trish Badham**

1882 NIAGARA STONE ROAD $20-$30 SQ. FT



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263 REGENT STREET $859,000

Wonderful historic gem! Circa 1820. Located within walking distance to the Lake, theatres, restaurants and shopping. 2010 sq. ft. of beautifully appointed space, 4 bedrooms, 4 ensuite bathrooms all of which have been tastefully remodeled. This home would make an exquisite personal residence although for the past twelve years has been an extremely successful Bed and Breakfast. **MLS 30543773. Chris Bowron or Audrey Wright.**

709 LAKESHORE ROAD $1,395,000

Fully updated Century home situated on a private 3 acre property. Features include open concept principal rooms, breakfast nook, character wood trim and brick fireplace. This unique home offers a tranquil setting on a treed lot with a creek, a 54 x 30 barn/garage and a horse paddock. **MLS 30547316. Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

578 WARNER ROAD $1,550,000

A truly unique property located on the St. David's escarpment on a quiet rural cu-de-sac. This private Austrian style estate comprises approximately 8,500 square feet of living space set in over 5 acres of park-like grounds including a massive stream fed pond. The construction of this home took decades and the painstaking attention to detail can be seen in its wealth of master brickwork and wood carving throughout both the interior and exterior. There are numerous possibilities for this property due to its location, size and layout. **MLS 30547[illegible]. Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

In January, Kathy, Janet and Ron Bowman were among those who enjoyed the bar at Niagara-on-the-Lake's Icewine Village on Queen Street/

In February, Lord Mayor Pat Darte handed NOTL Chamber of Commerce executive director Janice Thomson her Citizen of the Year award.

As 2016 began, winemakers celebrated a drop in temperature and the start of the icewine harvest, while locals stayed warm indoors at Navy Hall greeting friends and neighbours welcoming in the new year.

The town hall began 2016 with an interim CAO, after Mike Galloway announced his departure, and ended the year again with an interim CAO, Holly Dowd, and the launch of yet another search for someone to take over after Milena Avramovic was let go just six months into the job - no public info about why or how much it's going to cost taxpayers to replace her.

Not surprising news came early in the year from the new chair of the health care steering committee that they were looking at a new health hub that could have extended services and all the doctors of the family health team under one roof. Meanwhile the NOTL Hospital Auxiliary, with no hospital to serve, dissolved after 95 years of providing volunteer health care to the community. Some members continue some of the auxiliary programs, others have moved on to other volunteer work, but expressed hope that one day there will be a way to serve the community, possibly through a health hub, as the auxiliary served the hospital and its patients in the past.

FEBRUARY

February brought news that one line in the provincial budget supported expanding the GO train to Niagara, a project that local politicians continue to push for.

Also good news was the successful icewine festival in a town that thrives on tourism, and another banner year of visitors from the U.S. to Niagara and NOTL, with record numbers of visitors at the Shaw Festival, the casinos and the wineries.

And in recognition of her contribution to that success, Janice Thomson, the NOTL Chamber of Commerce executive director, was named Citizen of the Year with a well-deserved Spirit of Niagara Award - organized by staff of the chamber, who did a great job of keeping it a secret until the announcement at the annual event held at Queen's Landing.

Grace United, one of four churches in town with plans to sponsor a Syrian refugee family, finally welcomed the family to the area and helped them to settle. There are three churches now with refugee families they are sponsoring, although their year of responsibility will be up soon, while the fourth church ran into snags, with their family getting caught up in a backlog that saw them stuck in Turkey waiting for an exit visa.

MARCH

In March we learned the Town was ready to go to the public with information about phragmites and the growing problem of the reed-like weed that is taking over in town-owned ditches and around ponds. Workshops were held to send a message of how aggressive and how harmful the tall, feathery plant can be, and to let residents know the challenge the town is facing and its plan to study possible options for reducing or eliminating the growth of the weed.

CONTINUED > PAGE 17

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ESTATE HOME NOTL

Famous Estate Home in NOTL Sold, To Sell Your Estate Home Call Us, We Have The Buyers

ESTATE VINEYARD JORDAN

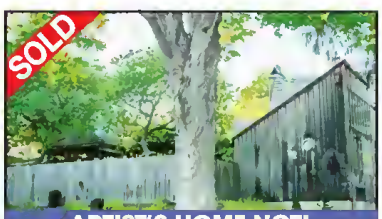
Remarkable property, 21 acres features large 3200 sq. ft. estate home and a separate duplex farm house, large barn plus 4 car garage bay. 11 acres of mature vidal grapes
$1,988,800 MLS#H3192025

FONTHILL LUXURY ESTATE

Custom built Estate, 3834 sq ft., with 3600 sq ft in the finished lower on a private 9.38 acre lot.The finest quality materials and construction, features 12' ceiling, hand made Artkraft kitchen.
$1,798,000 MLS# H3188907

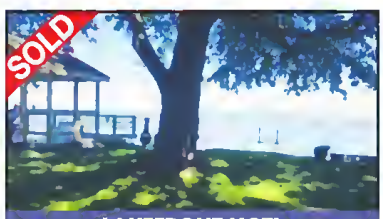
LAKEFRONT ST.CATHARINES

Fabulous lake front lot 100 x 659 with 135' at the lake, in-ground pool, stunning gardens. Privacy, custom built 2500 sqft, large eat in kitchen overlooks lake, 3 fireplaces, roof top deck, 4 bdrm., $1,400,000. MLS H 3196484



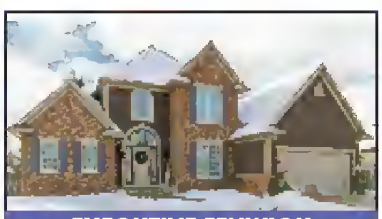
ARTIST'S HOME NOTL

We bring the GTA buyers to downtown NOTL



LAKEFRONT NOTL

Sold off the market.
Call us to sell your NOTL lakefront property.



EXECUTIVE FENWICK

3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom 1,800 square foot custom home situated in prestigious Fenwick cul de sac. Features great room w/ gas fireplace and private master w/ 4 pc ensuite.
$609,000 & MLS XH3196385

FONTHILL MODERN

7000 SqFt Custom Contemporary on 13 acres, 3+garage, 97'X66' largest Residential pool w/ cabana.
$1,299,900 MLS # H3188377

ST. CATHARINES ACROSS FROM LAKE

Sold in a few days at full price, we will get you more, call us to sell your home for top dollar value.

NIAGARA FALLS

Get over asking.
Call us to sell your Falls home

ON THE CHIPPAWA CREEK

Lakefront or Riverfront
We get top value

ST. DAVIDS TOWNHOME

Virgil, St Davids, NOTL -
We have the buyers!

NIAGARA FALLS TOWNHOME

We get the Falls' top dollar value from our GTA buyers

JORDAN

Views of the lake from this 2.6 acre lot, 3 Br split level, gorgeous yard. Lots of potential here to do your thing.
$599,900 MLS # H3186771

SOUTH THOROLD

GTA buyers now coming to Thorold
Are You Ready?

STARTER ST. CATHARINES

Two bedroom Bungalow situated close to many amenities and Bus route. Features include new flooring, 4 piece bathroom, California shutters, and newer windows.
$159,900 & MLS H3193338

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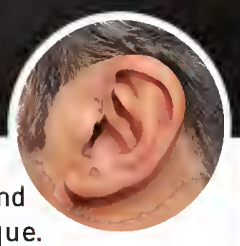
WITH YOUR CURRENT HEARING CARE PROVIDER?



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Contact us today for a FREE Second Opinion to see if we are your perfect fit!

Visit our website or call us to book a **FREE** no-obligation consultation and receive the following items **FREE** of charge when you attend your appointment:

- **FREE** hearing assessment
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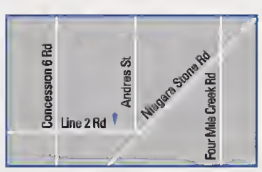
- **FREE** hearing aid cleaning
- **FREE** package of batteries
- **FREE** hearing aid performance & settings check
- **FREE** counselling



Virgil, ON
#3-504 Line 2 Road
905-468-9176

Thorold, ON
#4-3350 Merrittville Hwy
905-684-9663

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400 Scott St. (Grantham Plaza)
905-937-4287

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Your Hearing. Your Life.
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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 14

For the second time, the Lakeshore Road marijuana operation was busted - the first time was September 2015 when 11 people were charged. This time, there were four arrests with charges of production of a controlled substance. Although there were claims that the plants were being grown under legal medical marijuana licences, none of the owners of the licences were present at either arrest.

In March 2015 the region formed a task force to look at the future of some of the long-term care homes in Niagara, including Upper Canada Lodge in NOTL. By March 2016, a regional task force was looking at larger health hubs, which could mean eliminating the smaller seniors' homes, including Upper Canada Lodge. NOTL town councillors and regional councillor Gary Burroughs expressed concern that the long-term care home, which requires expensive renovations to meet structural codes by 2025, might close. Lord Mayor Pat Darte explained the region is looking at health hubs that could provide a continuum of care, which is not available at Upper Canada Lodge.

APRIL

In April, after months of closed-door meetings that told us something was happening with the former high school building which the town had purchased, we learned its fate. A private school for international students, then operating in St. Catharines, bought the building and property, all but about nine acres the town has held on to. The school opened in September, and although the building is looking more cared for, it's pretty quiet as schools go, with little sign of student activity.

We learned in April - not exactly earth-shattering, but news locals noticed when they saw the pile of crumbling rocks - the familiar Welcome to Virgil sign, so prominent to drivers travelling north through the roundabout on Niagara Stone Road, would be torn down. Originally paid for by the Virgil Business Association, the sign will be replaced at the expense of the Gretzky winery. The sign's location blocked sight lines for cars exiting the new winery's driveway. No sign of it being rebuilt yet.

CONTINUED > PAGE 18

In April, Mariah Reese (right), Sebastian Reese and Jim Mezon help Ruby Elltoft, Natalie Simpson, Ethan Epp and Ilias Dritsacos collect the garbage from the beach at the foot of King Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake in recognition of Earth Day Friday.

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2017.

1800

pursueknowledge
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 Anderson Lane,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-2023
www.notlpubliclibrary.org

1950

Home hardware Penner building centre
700 Penner Street Virgil
905-468-3242

THREE GENERATIONS
Brittany, Ernie, Betty, Gordon & Lisa Morgan

1959

Morgan
Your Heritage Funeral Home
415 Regent Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3255 • www.morganfuneral.com

1977

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S
1882 Niagara Stone Road
Virgil 905-468-2121
simpsonspharmacy.ca
LIVE WELL WITH PHARMASAVE

1980

HENDRIKS valu-mart
130 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-7731

1986

JUST CHRISTMAS
34 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3400
www.justchristmas.ca

Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 17

Good news from the province was a grant of $87,000 to build another 1.2 kilometres of a cycling and walking path to connect Virgil to the Old Town.

Another $67,000 grant from the province through the Trillium Foundation was announced for the Anderson Lane library renovation, a large project to update the facility and make it more user-friendly. The federal government also donated money through a heritage grant to the oldest library in Canada, and library staff and politicians launched a fundraising campaign to attract public donations. The work is expected to be completed by spring.

MAY

In May, likely the most talked-about news in the area was the 2013 resignation of former MPP Kim Craitor, who walked away suddenly from his Niagara Falls riding constituency claiming he was too mentally exhausted to continue. There was some fear his cancer bad returned, but that turned out not to be the case - after running successfully for a job at the Niagara Falls city council table, he was exposed as having to resign his position as MPP over sexual harassment charges. The premier of Ontario confirmed her office had investigated complaints and called for his resignation. Craitor said then the allegations were unfounded and the truth would be revealed in good time. Almost a year later, we're still waiting to hear his side of the story.

With the arrival of some warm weather, we began to see some serious efforts of the town's Communities in Bloom committee, as it renewed plans to beautify public spaces by planting trees in three town parks. The committee kept up its work until the judges arrived in July, and in the fall, the town was declared a winner at the national level of the competition.

In May, the 50th anniversary of the Virgil Stampede brought the return of a horse show - this time miniature horses.

In May, Alice in Wonderland opened at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Jackie Maxwell's last season as artistic director.

CONTINUED > PAGE 19

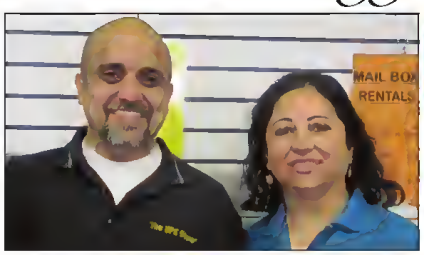
BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2017.

1986

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES
46 Queen St,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-5242
www.TenThousandVillages.ca

1997



The UPS Store
454 Mississuaga Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905.468.1660
store201@theupsstore.ca

2001

JAGS REPAIRZ
PERFORMANCE • DYNO
765 Lakeshore Rd. • Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-7000 • www.jagsrepairz.com
BCS shindaiwa ECHO extmark

2001

Red Roof RETREAT
1594 Concession Six
RR#2 Niagara-on-the-Lake
289-868-9800
www.redroofretreat.com

2006

the IRISH HARP pub
245 King Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4443
www.theirishharppub.com

2010

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S APOTHECARY
233 King Street
NOTL 905-468-8400
simpsonspharmacy.ca
LIVE WELL WITH PHARMASAVE

Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 18

In June, the students of Royal Oak Community School, Kindergarten to Grade 2, performed Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream outdoors, wrapping up a successful first year for the Old Town school.

In July, this design was released to the public for the renovated Niagara Medical Centre on Niagara Stone Road. No work has begun on it yet.

In August the town decided to reopen the wading pool at Simcoe Park.

In what was being billed as his remote-tour send-off, CTV weatherman and news personality Jeff Hutcheson chose the NOTL Cenotaph as the backdrop for the first stage of his tour, which was a prelude to his retirement after a journalism career that spanned four decades. Ironically, a month later, the Canada AM show he had been part of for so long was also retired, to be replaced by a show that's more about entertainment than news.

On the May long weekend, the Virgil Stampede celebrated its 50th anniversary by hosting the biggest and best spring event yet, including a return of a horse show. Although they were miniature horses, they were a welcome sight at the event, which is organized by the Virgil Business Association and gives back money to the community.

At the end of the month, the Niagara region was saddened to learn of the death of philanthropist and business leader John Walker, who was known for his generosity in giving back to the community in many ways, chiefly to health care and the arts. A strong supporter of the Shaw Festival, he was perhaps best known for the single largest private donation in Niagara - a gift of $5 million toward the construction of the Regional Cancer Centre at the St. Catharines Hospital.

JUNE

In June, the first Laura Secord Day fair was held in Queenston, after the town agreed the third Saturday in June, which is closest to Secord's 1813 walk, would be named for the Canadian hero who changed history with her grit and determination.

CONTINUED > PAGE 24

BUSINESS Honour Roll

The following businesses wish to thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2017.

2005

PHIL'S valu-mart

1551 Niagara Stone Rd. • Virgil

905-468-3286

2010

Closets byDesign

11 Henegan Rd., Unit 1

Virgil

905-468-4611

www.closetsbydesign.ca

2011

PADDLE NIAGARA

Lessons, Rentals & Sales

905-401-SUPZ (7879) • www.paddleniagara.com

2012

SANDTRAP PUB & GRILL

358 Mary Street

Niagara-on-the-Lake

905-468-8727

www.sandtrappub.com

2016

Keke Boutique

700 Penner Street Virgil

905-468-3242 ext 501

kekeboutique.ca

99¢ LB — LARGE SIZE BRAEBURN APPLES
PRODUCT OF USA
$2.18 KG

$2.99 EA — JUMBO CANTALOUPES
PRODUCT OF GUATEMALA

$1.49 LB — LARGE SIZE ROYAL GALA APPLES
PRODUCT OF THE USA
$3.28 KG

$1.49 EA — BARTLETT PEARS
PRODUCT OF USA
$3.28 KG

55¢ LB — BANANAS
PRODUCT OF THE TROPICS
$1.21 KG

$3.99 CORED — $2.99 EACH
LARGE GOLDEN PINEAPPLES
PRODUCT OF COASTA RICA

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Lococo's

We at Lococo's are making our New Year's resolution to offer our customers great deals, no matter how BIG or SMALL your shopping list may be.

Lococo's will now be offering our rock bottom pricing on not only our FAMILY pack size but also our SMALL pack size!

SMALL PACK • FAMILY PACK • SAME PRICE!!

$3.99 LB — LEAN GROUND BEEF
FRESH STOREMADE
$8.80 Kg

ALL NEW!!
SMALL PACK
FAMILY PACK
SAME PRICE!

$4.99 LB — BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS
$11.00 Kg
ONTARIO'S FINEST

$3.69 LB — ITALIAN SAUSAGE
FRESH STOREMADE, ASSORTED VARIETIES
$8.13 Kg
ONTARIO'S FINEST

$6.99 LB — LEAN STEWING BEEF
CUT FROM CANADA AA
$15.41 Kg

$11.99 LB — STRIPLOIN STEAKS
CUT FROM CANADA AAA FAMILY PACK
$26.43 Kg
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2371 Barton St. E.
at Kenora, Hamilton
(1/4 mile east of Red Hill Valley Pkwy)
Only 5 mins. from Hamilton Mtn.
Mon-Fri 8am-9pm
Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

400 Nebo Road
at Rymal, Hamilton
On The Mountain
Mon-Fri 8am-9pm
Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

4167 Victoria Ave.
Niagara Falls
Mon-Fri 8am - 7:30pm
Saturday 8am - 6pm
Sunday 8am - 6pm

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WWW. LOCOCOS .ca

99¢ LB
LARGE RED PEPPERS
PRODUCT OF MEXICO
$2.18 Kg

BERRIES
BLUEBERRIES
PRODUCT OF CHILE
RASPBERRIES
PRODUCT OF MEXICO
$1.88 EA
170 G/6oz pack
BLACKBERRIES
PRODUCT OF MEXICO

69¢ LB
NAVAL ORANGES
PRODUCT OF USA
$1.52 Kg

88¢ EA
ANDY BOY BROCCOLI

ONTARIO'S FINEST!
$1.55 LB
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS
$3.42 Kg

ALL NEW!!
SMALL PACK
FAMILY PACK
SAME PRICE!

CAPLESS TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS
CUT FROM CANADA AAA
AGED TO PERFECTION!
AAA

AAA
$3.99 LB
$8.80 Kg

TOP SIRLOIN ROASTS
CUT FROM CANADA AAA
AGED TO PERFECTION!
AAA

ONTARIO'S FINEST!
$1.99 LB
ROASTER CHICKEN
$4.39 Kg

ONTARIO'S FINEST!
$1.99 LB
LEAN GROUND PORK
FRESH STOREMADE
$4.39 Kg

AGED TO PERFECTION!
$4.99 LB
MINI STRIPS
CUT FROM CANADA AAA
TOP SIRLOIN CAPS • $11.00 Kg

PORK
SIDE RIBS
ONTARIO'S FINEST!
BONELESS LOIN ROAST
$2.99 LB
$6.59 Kg
ONTARIO'S FINEST!
BONELESS LOIN CHOPS

AD EFFECTIVE FROM JAN 13TH TO JAN 19TH

2371 Barton St. E.
at Kenora, Hamilton
(1/4 mile east of Red Hill Valley Pkwy)
Only 5 mins. from Hamilton Mtn.
Mon-Fri 8am-9pm
Sat & Sun 8am-6pm

400 Nebo Road
at Rymal, Hamilton
On The Mountain
Mon-Fri 8am-9pm
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4167 Victoria Ave.
Niagara Falls
Mon-Fri 8am - 7:30pm
Saturday 8am - 6pm
Sunday 8am - 6pm
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DECK SIZE 16"w x 50"L · MOTOR 1.5 HP · PROGRAMS 6 · SPEED 0-10 MPH
SAVE 50% 449.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 899.99
HealthRider H20T
Treadmill. 84-7869-2.

DECK SIZE 20"w x 55"L · MOTOR 2.5 CHP · PROGRAMS 30 · SPEED 0.5-12 MPH
SAVE 60% 799.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2199.99
Horizon CT7.2
Treadmill. 84-0159-4

DECK SIZE 20"w x 55"L · MOTOR 2.6 CHP · PROGRAMS 20 · SPEED 0-10 MPH
SAVE 55% 899.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2299.99
NordicTrack C630T
Treadmill. 84-7867-6.

YOU MIGHT NEED THIS
Save 40%
Sale 38.99
Reg 64.99
Protective Foam Flooring, 6-Pack 84-7852-0

TESTED
DECK SIZE 20"w x 60"L · MOTOR 2.75 CHP · PROGRAMS 43 · SPEED 0.5-12 MPH
SAVE 60% 919.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2299.99
AFG Sport 5.7AT
Treadmill. 84-7866-8.

DECK SIZE 20"w x 60"L · MOTOR 2.5 CHP · PROGRAMS 12 · SPEED 0.5-12 MPH
SAVE 50% 999.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2499.99
Horizon CT9.3
Treadmill. 84-0562-2.

Save 60% Sale 999.99 41.67/month** Reg 2699.99 NordicTrack C950i Treadmill. 3.0-CHP drive system. 84-4987-8

NordicTrack
DEAL OF THE WEEK
DECK SIZE 20"w x 60"L · MOTOR 3.0 CHP · PROGRAMS 32 · SPEED 0-12 MPH
SAVE 65% 999.99
Reg 3249.99
41.67/month** C990T Treadmill. iFit enabled. 84-7881-0.

AFG
1 SAVE 60% 1199.99
Reg 2999.99
1 50.00/month** 5.3AE Elliptical Trainer. 84-4929-8
2 SAVE 60% 1199.99
Reg 2999.99
2 50.00/month** 5.3AT Treadmill. 84-4926-4.

SAVE UP TO 65%
1 Sale 599.99 25.00/month** Reg 1749.99 Horizon CE5.2 Elliptical Trainer. 84-7879-9
2 Sale 799.99 33.34/month** Reg 2199.99 Horizon CE8.8 Elliptical Trainer. 84-4925-6
3 Sale 1049.99 43.75/month** Reg 2799.99 NordicTrack SE7i Elliptical Trainer. 84-7971-4
Save 60% Sale 1279.99 53.34/month** Reg 3199.99 NordicTrack E11.7 Elliptical Trainer. 84-4948-2

FLYWHEEL 48 LBS · RESISTANCE MANUAL
SAVE 45% 549.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 999.99
Horizon S3+ Indoor Cycle. 84-4058-0.

FLYWHEEL 8.8 LBS · RESISTANCE 20 LEVELS · PROGRAMS 23 · PEDALS QUICKZIP
SAVE 60% 599.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 1499.99
AFG 7.3AU Upright Bike. 84-4931-0.

FLYWHEEL 8.8 LBS · RESISTANCE 20 LEVELS · PROGRAMS 23 · PEDALS QUICKZIP
SAVE 60% 679.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 1699.99
AFG 7.3AR Recumbent Bike. 84-4932-8

FLYWHEEL 44 LBS · RESISTANCE MANUAL
SAVE 60% 839.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2099.99
AFG 7.3IC Indoor Cycle. Vertical and horizontal seat adjustment. 84-4933-6

FLYWHEEL 20" · RESISTANCE 10 LBS
SAVE 60% 919.99 · IN 24 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE NO INTEREST*
Reg 2299.99
AFG Sport 5.7AE Elliptical. 84-7880-2.

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ONLY 47.99
Adjustable 40-lb Dumbbell Set with Case 84-0760-0

BOWFLEX
ONLY 599.99
25.00/month** PR1000 Home Gym. 30 exercises. 84-0709-6
949.99 39.59/month** PR3000 Home Gym. 50 exercises. 84-4923-0

CAP
SAVE 30%
Sale 51.99-224.99
Reg 74.99-349.99
Selected Benches/Sets or Power Tower 84-0542X.

EVERLAST
SAVE 15%
Sale 9.49-169.99
Reg 9.99-199.99 Selected Boxing and Training Gear 84-0955X

NordicTrack
SAVE $450
Sale 549.99 22.92/month** Reg 999.99
RW200 Rowing Machine. Foldable design. 84-4988-6.

TESTED
ATEETER
SAVE 20%
1 Sale 179.99 Reg 229.99 Folding Massage Table with Carrying Case. 84-0166-6
2 Sale 399.99 15.00/month.** Reg 499.99 Teater NXT-S Inversion Table with Back Pain Relief DVD 84-0598-8

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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 19

The first year of the Royal Oak Community School announced a successful conclusion and an expansion of two more grades in the fall, welcoming students from kindergarten to Grade 4. The not-for-profit elementary school, which fundraises to provide bursaries to offset fees for qualifying families, opened after the closure of Parliament Oak, the Old Town's only public school.

Bad news for locals that drew criticism in social media and at council: the wading pool in Simcoe Park, which has been enjoyed by generations of NOTL kids, was closed because it didn't meet regional safety standards. Discussions followed about whether it would require a fence and a lifeguard. To re-open the "water feature" for the summer, the Town decided to operate the fountain and allow it to be used as a splash-pad, and keep the pool basin drained. In August, after an uproar from the community, the wading pool was re-opened with a supervisor onsite. No word yet whether that was a temporary plan or a permanent solution.

In August, an announcement was made at the Niagara District Airport that a regular daily service to Toronto would begin in September.

JULY

By July, after a great Canada Day at Simcoe Park and Fort George, the summer was looking like it was going to be a record dry and hot one and growers were starting to worry about their crops.

CONTINUED > PAGE 24

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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 24

The weather, however, was perfect for partying, causing another problem not easily solved - an increase in complaints about late-night noise. The town's enforcement staff suggested the complaints be handled by police, as the town didn't have the resources to respond after hours, and council asked to touch base with the police to determine whether that was the solution.

Also in July, the public got a look at the plans for an expansion of the privately-owned Niagara Medical Clinic on Niagara Stone Road. No word on whether the project is going ahead or whether the local doctors plan to support it.

AUGUST

In August, along with the peach harvest celebrations, drum musters at Fort George, the reopening of the wading pool and other festive events NOTL does so well in the summer, we learned that a new air service would connect the town with the big city for those who want to avoid driving. With passenger service set to begin in September, we were told the flight from Niagara District Airport to Billy Bishop would take about 15 minutes and cost $85. Although such a service has been discussed for decades, this is the first in the region.

The month ended with an event remembering Niagara's military past, at Fort George and on the streets of the Old Town.

In October, Landscape of Nations opened at Queenston Heights to tell the story of the contribution of natives in the War of 1812.

SEPTEMBER

The 20-year tradition of polo in Niagara-on-the-Lake returned to the Commons, this time hosted as a fundraiser for the Niagara Historical Museum. Although there have been a few years when the event didn't happen, the polo-plying enthusiasts said they were thrilled to be back in NOTL - there aren't a lot of fields that are suitable for the sport, or crowds to show up in support of what is considered 'the sport of kings.'

CONTINUED > PAGE 26

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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 25

Although the sesquicentennial year didn't officially begin until this Jan. 1, the NOTL committee tasked with planning local events launched in September with students from Crossroads, St. Davids, St. Michael and Royal Oak elementary schools dressed in red and white and forming a living Canadian flag on the grounds of Fort George.

Meanwhile the new high school opened in town, more than five years after the local school board closed Niagara District Secondary School. The private school for international students welcomed about 100 students its first year who are living with NOTL families, and two local students.

OCTOBER

October began with the opening of the Landscape of Nations, a $1.4 million memorial at Queenston Heights that commemorates the role of native allies in the War of 1812. The idea of a memorial was conceived by the Town's 1812 bicentennial committee as a legacy and a reminder to visitors of the significance of native involvement.

CONTINUED > PAGE 30

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO THE NIAGARA ADVANCE

An artist's rendering of what a completed renovation will look like at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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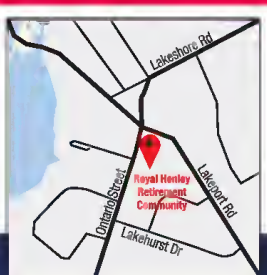

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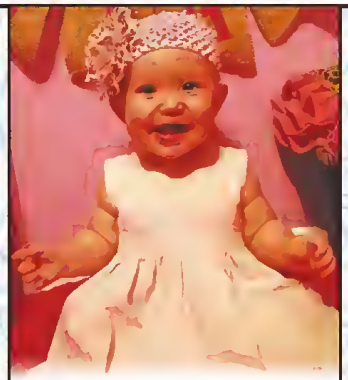
Babies in Review

Blessed Events 2016

Stefano Felice
January 9, 2016

Davis Rocco Arillotta
February 4, 2016

Lily Hnicki-Stone
April 3, 2016



Georgia Anne Roberta Corriveau
April 5, 2016

Thomas Blue Tappay
APRIL 30, 2016

Santino Czeslaw Cicchino
June 26, 2016

Bennett William Hope
July 3, 2016

Victoria Inyana Marie Calder
July 29, 2016

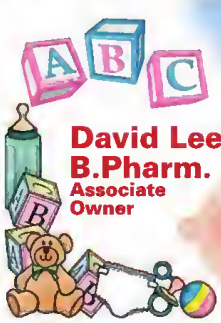
Jaxon Paul Thwaites
October 2, 2016

Reiner Brock Wiebe
November 22, 2016

Lincoln Alexander Thwaites
November 25, 2016

Brooklyn Marie Thwaites
December 14, 2016

Rebecca Catherine Scott
December 17, 2016



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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 26

When the Lakeshore Road marijuana operation was busted for the third time, with a total of 18 people arrested and more than 4,000 marijuana plants worth about $4 million on the street seized, the Niagara Regional Police said legal medical marijuana licences issued by Health Canada are being used to mask illegal marijuana growing operations, posing a significant threat to the public.

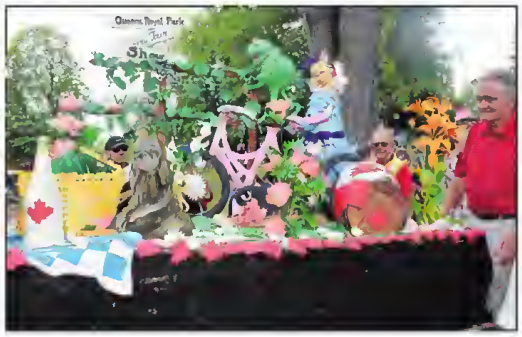
Mid-month, the official ground-breaking for Diamond Estates Wine's retail store took place. The retail department of the wine production facility has been operating out of a trailer on Niagara Stone Road for more than a decade, purchased from 20 Bees in 2008. The new retail facility is expected to open this spring.

Sadly, we learned a tragic plane crash had taken the lives of three young Niagara men, one from NOTL. Two of the young men were students at a local flying club, the third an instructor. The small plane was on its way to Niagara District Airport, and crashed in northern Pennsylvania - cause of crash unknown.

NOVEMBER

The big news heading into November came at a finance advisory committee of the Town, which was looking at a tax increase of anywhere between six and 13 per cent for 2017. The difficulty of arriving at a budget that would work for town staff, councillors and taxpayers was evident at that and subsequent meetings, as staff and elected officials looked at ways of meeting the needs of various groups in town and delivering services without overburdening taxpayers.

Although it was summer when NOTL councillors asked for an opportunity to speak with the police about service in town, it wasn't until November that NRP Chief Jeff McGuire came to council to talk about noise from late-night partying and other local issues. There was also a concern expressed by councillors about illegal marijuana operations. In both instances, councillors were told to call the Niagara Regional Police, but that calls would be answered by priority. Sometimes, when it comes to pot production using medical marijuana licences, police hands are tied, McGuire said. Councillors were told there was little need for more patrol cars in town - only one per cent of calls to the NRP come from NOTL, the chief said.



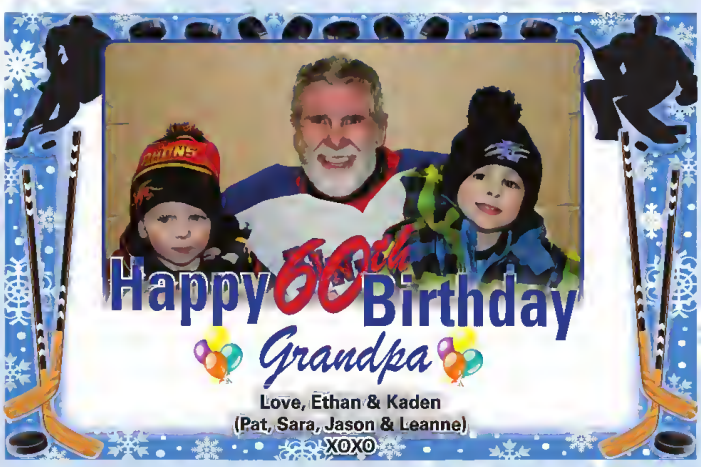
On Canada Day, Coun. Jim Collard accompanied the cake parade along Queen Street and into Simcoe Park.

DECEMBER

It took four drafts of the town's 2017 operating and capital budget, the final one approved in December, to get the increase to taxpayers down to 2.5 per cent over 2016. Parking reserves were used to offset budget costs, along with a request to the town from councillors to look at ways to increase parking revenue in the future.

CONTINUED > PAGE 31

FAMILY ALBUM



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Look back at best and worst of NOTL news in 2016

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 30

The month of seasonal activities began, as always, with a very successful Candlelight Stroll through the streets of the Old Town, and preparations for what was yet again one of the biggest and best Christmas parades in the country. Also good news: although there are still needy families and seniors in town, Newark Neighbours received a huge amount of support from local groceries stores, organizations and individuals to ensure those in need were well-looked after and given Christmas hampers and gifts.

After a year of celebrating the 200th anniversary of volunteer firefighters, the Town announced the retirement of Fire Chief Alex Burbidge. He has said he will wait until his replacement has been hired so he has time to show him the ropes.

At a town council meeting in December, council supported other Niagara municipalities calling for an outside audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. The request was sent to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Natural Resources Kathryn McGarry, who said last week the province has no authority to ask for such an audit - it has to come from the NPCA board.

The year wrapped up with the usual festive seasonal celebrations at local churches and schools, the opening of a new outside rink at Fort George thanks to Parks Canada and Vintage Hotels, and a good crowd turning out on a relatively mild Boxing Day for the annual Penguin Dip.

In December, the festive season began with group of youngsters at the Candlelight Stroll lighting their candles before setting off through the streets of the Old Town..

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VILLAGE Bible Church
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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
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www.villagebiblechurch.ca

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905 688 3958
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Pastors: David Lewis & Stephen Cox

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Lost and Found

Lost and Found

REWARD for two Pandore bracelets that were lost at the NOTL Community Centre on November 19, 2016 during the Charity Craft Show. Please contact Rasa at 416-408-9964 for a reward. These bracelets have great sentimental value to me.

Seasonal/Temporary

Seasonal/Temporary

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Obituaries

Obituaries

BLAIR, Sandy (nee Oakie) - It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Sandy Blair on Thursday, January 5th, with her family by her side at age 71. She will be greatly missed by her beloved husband Jim Blair of 51 years. Sandy fought an incredible battle for the last 4 years of her life. She drew strength and courage from her amazing husband who carried the load of her care in her time of need. They shared an unbreakable bond that will last forever. She lovingly leaves her children Shannon (Jason) Pluem and Tyler (Christina) Blair, and her cherished granddaughters Jordan, Alice and Lilly. She was predeceased by her devoted parents Albert and Alice Oakie. She will be forever missed by her sister Gail (Tom) O'Brien, sister-in-law Barbara (Garth) Schwenker, sister-in-law Carole Blair, brother-in-law John Blair and sister-in-law Pat Blair, as well as her many wonderful nieces, nephews and cousins. Sandy was a beautiful and vivacious woman who was known for her love of life and her ability to bring joy and happiness to those around her. She will never be forgotten. In keeping with Sandy's wishes a celebration of life will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 1pm-5pm in the auditorium at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre at 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Our family would like to express our gratitude for the outstanding care provided by the dedicated staff of the dialysis unit at the St. Catharines General Hospital. Donations in Sandy's memory can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

DAILY DISH

QUOTEABLE QUOTE *Big Bang Theory* star Kaley Cuoco was pretty impressed with her own cleavage Sunday night. "Heading to the Golden Globes with my golden globes," she captioned a photo on Instagram.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Channing Tatum stuns fans with nudie pic of wife

Channing Tatum delighted his Instagram followers on Monday by sharing a naked snap of his wife (**Jenna Dewan-Tatum**) sleeping.

Tatum, who is no stranger to shedding his clothes himself, posted a picture of his spouse catching some zzz's, alongside the caption: "Nap time = The Best Time."

In the black and white shot, Jenna is seen with her leg over the top of the duvet, which she is using to protect her modesty.

Jenna and Channing first met when they starred in 2006 movie *Step Up*, and quickly embarked on a romance. They married in 2009 and welcomed daughter Everly in 2013, but the couple have both been open about just how important sex is in their relationship.

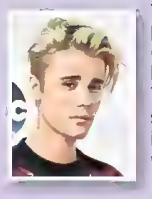
"I've always been a very sexual person," Jenna told *Cosmopolitan* magazine last month. "We definitely have a very happy and healthy sex life.

"Something about being a dancer connects you to your physical body. It's primal, earthy, sexual energy by nature...Channing is very much the same way. He's very in tune with that."

– WENN

Justin Bieber's a real doll

With Disney's promotional kick for its live-action *Beauty and the Beast* slowly getting underway, fans are freaking out over the similarities between the doll version of Emma Watson (who plays Belle) and singer Justin Bieber.



Actor-director Zach Braff shared a snap of the doll on Twitter with the caption, "When you take one of the prettiest actresses on Earth and turn her into Chucky... This doll must be stopped before it takes over the world."

For what it's worth, we think Biebs looks good in yellow.

– Postmedia Network

New Bowie music released for his b'day

David Bowie's final recordings have been released as a birthday treat for fans.

The *No Plan* EP was released on Sunday, on what would have been the late music icon's 70th birthday.

Bowie died two days after turning 69 last year.

The EP features three new tracks — *No Plan*, *Killing a Little Time*, and *When I Met You*. His hit song *Lazarus* from his final album *Blackstar* makes up the four-song release, which is available to download on iTunes.

Fans were also treated to a new video for *No Plan*, which was posted online to coincide with the EP.

– WENN

Vergara explains 'anal' joke

Sofia Vergara made an unfortunate slip-up when she took to the stage at the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday saying "anal" instead of "annual".

The star was introducing Sylvester Stallone's daughters as Misses Golden Globes, and kicked off her speech by saying: "Good evening The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has an anal tradition."

Appearing nervous, Sofia continued: "I didn't mean ... they have an anus tradition... They have a tradition that they do every year of choosing a second generation performer to assist in the presentation of the award."

Viewers were quick to comment on the error, but Sofia appeared to suggest it was a scripted 'bit', when she took to Instagram to share a picture of herself backstage, writing: "I look lonely back stage but I was just trying to come up with my anus joke hahhahha!!!!"

– WENN

Jackman stumping for Reynolds

Hugh Jackman has been campaigning for Ryan Reynolds to win some accolades this awards season.

The Canadian actor lost out at the Golden Globes on Sunday night to Ryan Gosling in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture — Musical or Comedy category for his star turn in *La La Land*.

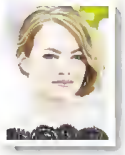
But Hugh still has high hopes for the *Deadpool* star, after first starring opposite him in the character for 2009's *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

"I've been out there campaigning," Hugh told *Variety* of the awards buzz surrounding Ryan. "I think he should be nominated for everything. That stuff is not easy, when you know how much of it he wrote himself and created to keep that tone. Hats off to him."

– WENN

Stone stiffed on hug

Next time you go in for a hug and get rejected, just remember — it happened to **Emma Stone**.



The actress tied to hug her *La La Land* director Damien Chazelle at Sunday's Golden Globes and was awkwardly stiffed.

In Twitter footage of the incident, Stone is stiffed as she goes in for a congratulatory hug as Chazelle opted to celebrate with his GF, Olivia Hamilton.

"That was weird, I'm sorry," Stone appears to say.

– Postmedia Network

Superheroes trashed

Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice and *Suicide Squad* are top contenders for the worst movie of 2016 at the upcoming Golden Raspberry Awards.

The critically-panned superhero films have landed on the shortlist for Worst Picture alongside *Assassin's Creed*, *Collateral Beauty*, *Dirty Grandpa*, *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*, *Fifty Shades of Black*, *Gods of Egypt*, and *Independence Day: Resurgence*.

Batman v Superman's Ben Affleck will compete alongside *Suicide Squad*'s Will Smith for Worst Actor.

– WENN

Gosling as Doctor Strange?

Doctor Strange fans have been given an idea of what **Ryan Gosling** would have looked like as the superhero if Marvel movie bosses had stuck to their initial casting plans.

The star was long rumoured to have been a frontrunner for the blockbuster role before Benedict Cumberbatch was officially brought onboard for the 2016 project, and now noted concept artist Court Chu has provided proof that Gosling was once seriously considered.

Chu shared some artwork he created following the initial casting discussions with Marvel executives on his blog, which depict Ryan as the mystical former neurosurgeon.

Alongside the sketches, he wrote, "I worked probably not even a day on some version of Doctor Strange years ago, and back then they wanted Gosling."

– WENN

Foreigner to do tour

Classic rockers Foreigner will celebrate their 40th anniversary by hitting the road with original singer **Lou Gramm**.

Departed co-founders Ian McDonald and Al Greenwood will also be joining the band for select dates this summer, while Jason Bonham, who was part of Foreigner from 2004 to 2008, will provide support along with Cheap Trick, who opened for the group on its first headlining tour back in 1978.

Foreigner guitarist Mick Jones tells WENN, "It's the right time to do this... I'm sure it'll go down well.

"It's almost like a family tour, with some healthy competition from everybody, I'm sure. Cheap Trick's not an easy band to go on after."

– WENN

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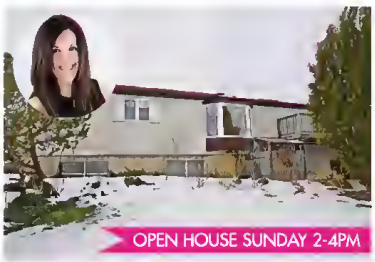

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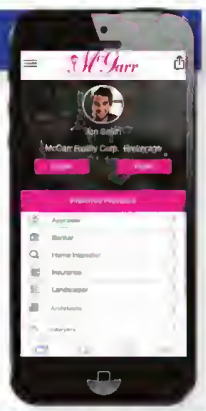

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